

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

a housing (30) having a terminal accommodating portion (31) with opposite front and rear ends and cavities (33) extending between the ends for receiving terminal fittings (15) along a connecting direction (CD), a receptacle (32) surrounding the front end of the terminal accommodating portion (31);

a separate front member (40) insertable along an inserting direction (ID) into the receptacle (32) and towards the front end of the terminal accommodating portion (31); and

a resiliently deflectable lock formed on at least one of the housing and the front member and at least one locking projection provided on the other of the housing and the front member, the resiliently deflectable lock being engageable with the locking projection to hold the front member in at least one selected position relative to the housing; and

guiding means (45, 51; 46, 52) between the front member (40) and the receptacle (32) and spaced from the resilient lock and the locking projection for guiding the front member (40) into the receptacle (32) substantially parallel with the connecting direction (CD) and preventing misalignment in response to forces generated when the resilient lock engages the locking projection, the guiding means comprising a plurality of pairs of ribs and grooves, the rib and the groove in a first of said pairs having a cross section different from a rib and groove in a second of said pairs to ensure connection in only one orientation.

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the separate front member ~~(40)~~ is configured to form at least part of front ends of the cavities ~~(33)~~.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the guiding means ~~(45, 51; 46, 52)~~ comprises at least one rib ~~(45; 46)~~ and at least one groove ~~(51; 52)~~ formed on opposed facing surfaces of the front member ~~(40)~~ and the receptacle ~~(32)~~ and slidably engageable with each other.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, further comprising a mating housing ~~(20)~~ fittable into the receptacle ~~(32)~~ of the housing ~~(30)~~.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 5, wherein the mating housing ~~(20)~~ has a rib ~~(60)~~ or a groove slidably engageable with one of the guiding means ~~(45, 51; 46, 52)~~ in the receptacle ~~(32)~~.

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim 6, wherein a shake-preventing portion ~~(64)~~ is disposed on at least one of the housing ~~(10)~~ and the mating housing ~~(20)~~ spaced from the resilient lock and the locking projection for becoming active towards the end of an insertion stroke of the mating housing ~~(20)~~ into the receptacle ~~(32)~~.

8. (currently amended) The connector of claim 7, wherein the shake-preventing portion ~~(64)~~ is provided at a rear end of the rib ~~(60)~~ or groove of the mating housing ~~(20)~~ with respect to an inserting direction.

9. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the housing ~~(30)~~ is a male housing ~~(30)~~ with cavities ~~(33)~~ for receiving male terminals ~~(15)~~ so that

tabs ~~(16)~~ of the male terminals ~~(15)~~ project into the receptacle ~~(32)~~, and the front member ~~(40)~~ is a moving plate ~~(40)~~ formed with through holes ~~(41)~~ through which the tabs ~~(16)~~ can be passed.

10. (currently amended) The connector of claim 9, wherein the moving plate ~~(40)~~ is locked in the receptacle ~~(32)~~ with leading ends of the tabs ~~(16)~~ located in the corresponding through holes ~~(41)~~ and being moved rearward in the receptacle ~~(32)~~ as a mating female housing ~~(20)~~ is fit into the receptacle ~~(32)~~.

11. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

a male housing ~~(30)~~ having a terminal accommodating portion ~~(31)~~ with opposite front and rear ends and cavities ~~(33)~~ extending between the ends for receiving male terminal fittings ~~(15)~~ along a connecting direction ~~(GD)~~, a receptacle ~~(32)~~ surrounding the front end of the terminal accommodating portion ~~(31)~~;

a moving plate ~~(40)~~ inserted along an inserting direction ~~(4D)~~ into the receptacle ~~(32)~~ and towards the front end of the terminal accommodating portion ~~(31)~~, the moving plate having holes ~~(41)~~ aligned respectively with the cavities ~~(33)~~;

male terminal fittings ~~(15)~~ inserted in the cavities ~~(33)~~ and having tabs ~~(16)~~ projecting through the holes ~~(41)~~ of the moving plate ~~(40)~~; and

ribs ~~(45; 46)~~ and grooves ~~(51; 52)~~ formed on opposed facing surfaces of the front plate ~~(40)~~ and the receptacle ~~(32)~~ and slidably engageable with each other for guiding the front plate ~~(40)~~ into the receptacle ~~(32)~~ substantially parallel with the connecting direction ~~(GD)~~, the ribs and grooves having cross sectional shapes for preventing inverted insertion of the moving plate into the receptacle.

12. (currently amended) The connector of claim 11, wherein the front plate ~~(40)~~ is configured to form parts of front ends of the cavities ~~(33)~~.

13. (currently amended) The connector of claim 11, further comprising a female housing ~~(20)~~ fittable into the receptacle ~~(32)~~ of the male housing ~~(30)~~.

14. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein the female housing ~~(20)~~ has a rib ~~(60)~~ slidably engageable with one of the grooves ~~(45, 51; 46, 52)~~ in the receptacle ~~(32)~~.

15. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein the moving plate ~~(40)~~ is locked in the receptacle ~~(32)~~ with leading ends of the tabs ~~(46)~~ located in the corresponding through holes ~~(41)~~ and being moved rearward in the receptacle ~~(32)~~ as the female housing ~~(20)~~ is fit into the receptacle ~~(32)~~.

16. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein a shake-preventing portion ~~(61)~~ is disposed on at least one of the male housing ~~(10)~~ and the female housing ~~(20)~~ for becoming active towards the end of an insertion stroke of the female housing ~~(20)~~ into the receptacle ~~(32)~~.

17. (currently amended) The connector of claim 16, wherein the shake-preventing portion ~~(61)~~ is provided at a rear end of the rib ~~(60)~~ of the female housing ~~(20)~~ with respect to an inserting direction.